

**Division of Water Supply – Bureau of Safe Drinking Water  
401 E. State Street - P.O. Box 426  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0426  
Tel # 609-292-5550 – Fax # 609-292-1654**

**MEMORANDUM**

To: Nontransient Noncommunity Water Systems Using Ground Water Sources

From: Barker Hamill, Assistant Director  
Water Supply Operations

Subject: New Monitoring Requirements and New Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for Arsenic in Drinking Water

Date: November 16, 2005

This memo addresses the new monitoring requirements and new Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic in drinking water for nontransient noncommunity water systems using ground water sources. Effective January 23, 2006, the New Jersey Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for arsenic will be 5 parts per billion (ppb) which is lower than the USEPA MCL of 10 ppb that will also be effective on that date. Because of the new MCL, Federal and State Regulations will prohibit the use of EPA Method 200.7 and Standard Method 3120B and only allow EPA Method 200.8, EPA Method 200.9, SM 3113B, and SM 3114B to be used for analysis of arsenic in drinking water for compliance determinations. For the purpose of this memo, these four allowable methods (EPA Method 200.8, EPA Method 200.9, SM 3113B, and SM 3114B) will be referred to as the **“approved methods.”**

Most nontransient noncommunity water systems are required to sample their points of entry for arsenic once every three years. For these systems, each sample must be collected in the third year of each three year compliance period (2007, 2010, 2013, etc.) Therefore, these systems are required to collect a sample for arsenic from each point of entry in 2007.

All samples taken in 2007 must be analyzed using one of the approved methods. If the result is less than the new MCL of 5 ppb, the point of entry should next be sampled in 2010. If the result is greater than 5 ppb, the system must begin quarterly sampling immediately.

Also note that the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water will review the results from the previous compliance period of 2002-2004 and may require that the sampling take place in 2006 instead of 2007 if the earlier results exceeded 5 ppb. A separate letter will be sent to the water system in this situation.

Compliance for arsenic is measured on a running annual average at each point of entry, unless any one sample would cause the running annual average to exceed the new MCL of 5 ppb. The public water system must bring the water into compliance with the new MCL of 5 ppb within one year of receipt of results that demonstrate an exceedence that constitutes an MCL violation for arsenic.

Please contact Brad Koffler of the Bureau of Safe Drinking Water at 609-292-5550 if you have any questions.

C: Karen Fell, BSDW  
Brad Koffler, BSDW  
Water Compliance and Enforcement